

Appl. No.: 10/768,762

Amdt. dated: 08/04/2006

Reply to Office action of: 07/06/2006

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

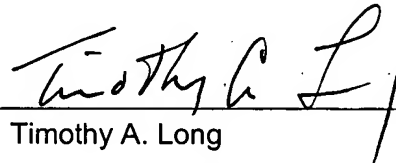
The Office action of July 6, 2006 requires election of one of the "species disclosed in claim 6: metal, polymer, ceramic and bone." The applicants elect a polymer and request amendment of claim 6, as indicated above, to reflect the election.

The Office action further requires a listing of all claims readable on the elected species and identifies claims 1-5 and 7-26 as generic. The applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5; claim 6, as amended, and claims 7-26 encompass the elected invention.

The applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes that for any reason direct contact with applicants' attorney would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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